



Merry Christmas!

On behalf of all staff, thank you to everyone who has sent cards and gifts to pupils and staff and for taking the time to heed the advice to keep them as Covid secure as possible. We are all very grateful for the kindness and support shown to us by our community. It has been a tough time for everyone but we have managed to see it through together. We would also like to wish you a happy Christmas, in whatever way you are able to celebrate it this year.

Also, with digital safety in mind, the following article may help you have a safe Christmas online as well!

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-xmas>

We look forward to seeing the pupils return on Monday 4th January.

Applying for Reception

The application window for Reception places for September 2021 runs until 15th January. If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 inclusive, further information about how to apply can be found at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationanddfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

Diary Dates

Friday 18th December – Last day of term

Monday 4th January – Pupils return

Friday 15th January – Closing date for Reception place application for September 2021

Monday 15th February – First day of half term holiday

Tuesday 23rd February – Pupils return

Thursday 1st April – Last day of term

Monday 19th April – Pupils return

Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th May – KS2 English and Maths SATs

Christmas Celebrations

In the absence of our usual Christmas Service, each class has held a slightly different Christmas celebration within their bubble. These have been videoed and are available to view on the school website. We hope you will enjoy them.

<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/parents/news-and-events/>

First Holy Communion

We are planning to start our First Holy Communion sessions again after February half term, with the hope that First Holy Communion will take place in the summer term. Pupils in Year 2 or above, who would like to take their First Holy Communion, are being invited to join the group in the new year. Please let Miss Slack know if you would like your child to take part in these sessions. Thank you.

Safeguarding

Childline

Childline is a free, private and confidential service where children can talk about anything. They can speak to a counsellor every day from 7:30am - 3:30am.

Four facts about Childline:

- It was started in 1986 by Esther Rantzen
- They help any young person in the UK
- Calling Childline is free and doesn't show up on the phone bill
- In 2006 it became part of the NSPCC to help even more young people.

childline

ONLINE,
ON THE PHONE,
ANYTIME
[childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)
0800 1111

Prayer Focus

This week is the second week of the bumper edition of The Wednesday Word – go to www.wednesdayword.org and click on the schools' tab. This week's word is "Mary" and this Sunday's reading is from Luke 1: 26-38. It tells us how the Angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her she would have a baby son whom she would call Jesus. Mary accepted God's will and put her trust in Him.

Pope Francis said "Mary's life shows that God accomplishes great deeds through those who are the most humble." "Let the model of Mary be reflected in our lives." Try to think of some kind things you could do for others in this last week of Advent.

Our prayer this week is based upon the Angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary:

*Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is
the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of
God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of
our death.
Amen.*

Music Lessons

Just a reminder that we are now able to offer singing lessons in addition to piano and drum lessons. We also have extra spaces for piano lessons as Mr Walker is also providing lessons as Mrs Sleath has no spaces at present. Lessons cost £10 per lesson (30 minutes). Please let the office know if you would like your child to try any of these lessons and we will pass your contact details to the appropriate person.

Free School Meals

Just a reminder that, if your child is entitled to Free School Meals, to ensure that you receive the free school meals holiday vouchers for this Christmas period, you must apply by today, Friday 18th December. The easiest way to do this is via the Devon Citizens' Portal. https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Creative Hero

We are very pleased to let you know that Miss Blackhall has been nominated for a Creative Hero Award, run by Doorstep Arts.

These awards recognise the importance of teachers, teaching assistants and admin staff who work tirelessly to ensure that children and young people can engage with vibrant creative opportunities, including drama, dance, singing, music, visual arts and creative writing / media.

Miss Blackhall was presented with her nomination certificate at Burrator's achievement assembly today.

Attendance

The children who have achieved 97% attendance, or above, this term were awarded certificates in their class achievement assemblies today.

As of last Friday the whole school attendance rate was 97.4% which is an excellent result for the year so far.

Congratulations!



Pupils of the Term

Meldon – Marley
Venford – Jonathan
Avon – Bridie
Fernworthy – Rumer
Burrator – Ryan

